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CPUC UNVEILS MOBILE SPEED TEST APPLICATION; BEGINS ROUND OF BROADBAND TESTING THROUGHOUT STATE

SAN FRANCISCO, April 15, 2013 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) this week announced a two-pronged approach towards greatly improving the understanding of mobile data service capabilities throughout the state: a mobile speed test application for Android phones and mobile broadband testing of the networks of AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon. This marks the first time the public and state officials will have access to such extensive information, generally only known by the companies themselves.

Mobile Speed Test Application

The CPUC has released a mobile application, called CalSPEED, which is available now as a free download for Android phones. CalSPEED is part of the CPUC's efforts to determine the level of mobile data services available to consumers in California. CalSPEED provides consumers with a professional-level testing tool, composed of a suite of industry standard tests, to measure the quality and speed of their mobile data connections. The results of these tests can tell a consumer not only data speed, but whether their service will support real-time applications, such as Voice over IP and streaming video.

CalSPEED's results are also sent automatically to the CPUC for mapping and analysis, and for display on the CPUC's interactive California Broadband Availability Map (www.broadbandmap.ca.gov). CalSPEED will provide "crowdsourced" data to the CPUC, which will supplement data from the CPUC's own field tests. Using this combination of data, the CPUC will know, with greater accuracy than was possible before, what areas of the state are lacking mobile

service entirely, or receiving only poor mobile service.

Ryan Dulin, the CPUC's Communications Division Director explains, "By using CalSPEED and our interactive Broadband Availability Map, consumers can better understand the capabilities of a provider's service at the locations they will be using it prior to purchase. This will help consumers avoid costly termination fees they might otherwise incur by choosing a provider whose service does not meet their needs. The CPUC and state legislators will also use CalSPEED results, along with the CPUC's field test results, to help better decide what areas will need government-funded broadband subsidies in order for all residents to have access to increasingly necessary broadband services."

Although there are many free speed test applications available, the CPUC's mobile application is the most extensive testing tool available to consumers today. The source code for the application will be available so that other states can easily modify it for their use. "I've been involved in field testing mobile broadband services for a long time. The CPUC's new app is not only far more extensive but is based on public open source standards unlike other proprietary tools. This app lets consumers and policymakers have crucial information that, up until now, only the cellular companies themselves have had," explained Ken Biba, founder and Chief Technology Officer of Novarum, and a consultant to the project.

CalSPEED can be downloaded via Google Play at https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.ca.cpuc.calspeed.android&feature=nav_result#?t=W10.

Statewide Broadband Testing

The CPUC conducts its own biannual field testing of mobile broadband signals for the four largest carriers – AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon – the third round of which just got underway. In the next few weeks, testers will log 35,000 miles testing at 1,200 locations across the state in order to provide valuable information to both consumers and policymakers.

Two previous rounds of testing have been conducted in the same locations, and will continue at six-month intervals. Repeated testing allows the CPUC to monitor the pace of deployment of the most

advanced mobile technologies in urban and rural areas and tribal lands. Daily updates on this testing, including video and photos from the field are available at http://calbroadbanddrivetest.blogspot.com/.

CalSPEED and the CPUC's field testing activities are funded by a State Broadband Data and Development Grant awarded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The CPUC partnered with California State University Monterey Bay and California State University Chico, both of which provided valuable assistance in accomplishing this first-of-its-kind work.

For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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